



R U L E S
AND
R E G U L A T I O N S,
OF AN
I N S T I T U T I O N
CALLED THE
Itinerant Methodist Preachers'
A N N U I T Y.

Begun in BRISTOL, August 7th, 1798.

A prudent Man foreseeth the Evil, and hideth himself.

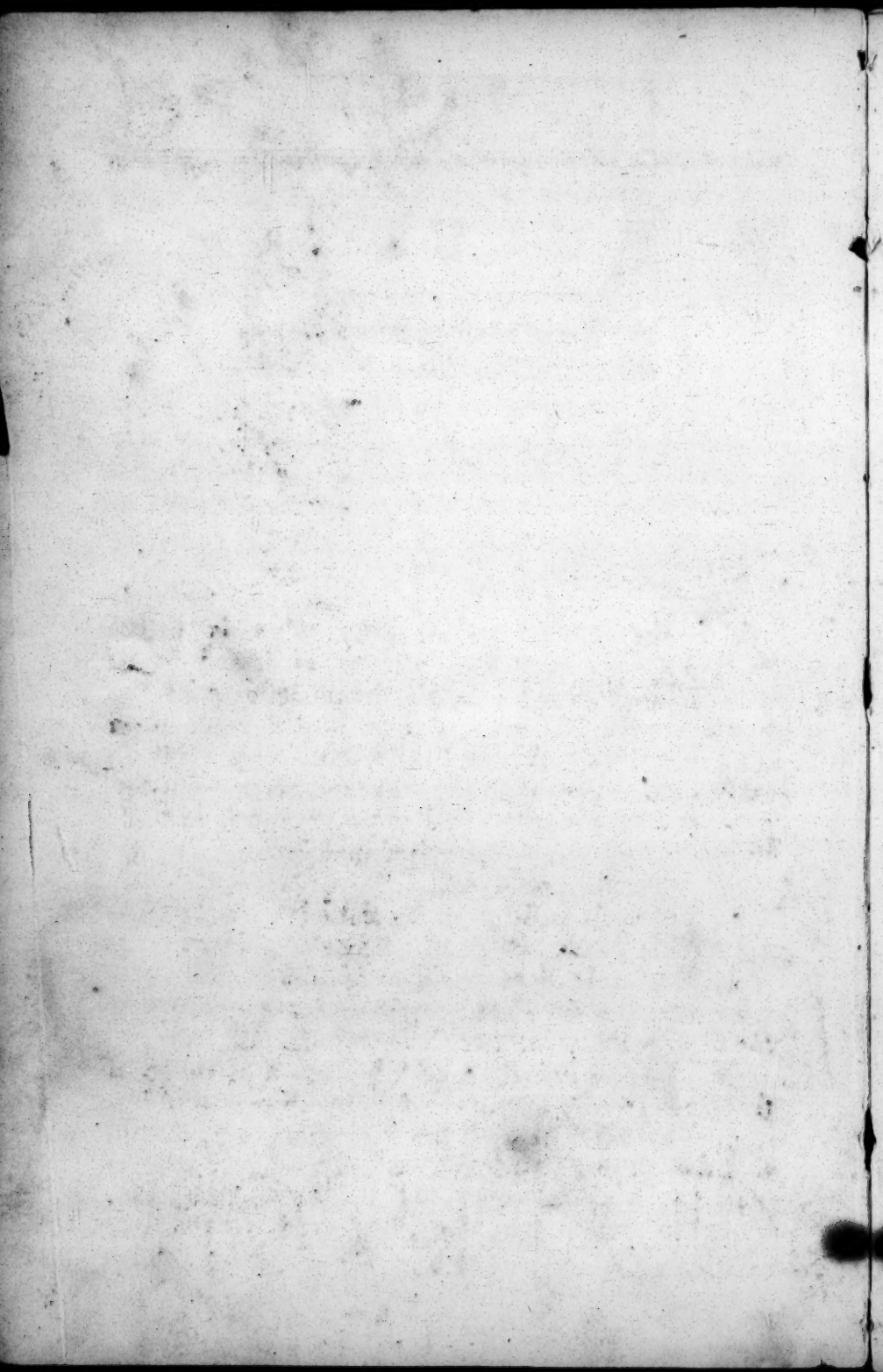
SOLOMON.

BRISTOL:

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1799.

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R U L E S, &c.

At several meetings held by adjournment from August 7 to August 9, 1798, inclusive, to take into consideration a Plan to remedy the distressed condition of worn-out Itinerant Preachers late in connexion with the Rev. J. WESLEY, the Society above specified was formed.

AS the support afforded by what is called THE PREACHERS' FUND, is found to be greatly inadequate to supply the necessities of the Preachers and Widows who are now dependent on it; the OBJECT of this Institution is to provide an additional supply for the Supernumerary and Superannuated Preachers and their Widows, according to the provisions hereafter mentioned.

It is therefore resolved,

1. That this Institution be called THE ITINERANT METHODIST PREACHERS' ANNUITY.

2. That this Society be composed of those *only* who are *Itinerant Preachers*, under the direction of the *Conference of the People called Methodists*.

3. That no Preacher be admitted a Member of this Society who labours under any known disorder.

4. That after August the 7th, 1799, no Person shall be admitted a Member of this Society who is above 45 years of age: and in the interim, viz. from the present date, August 7, 1798, to the time

above specified, viz. August 7, 1799, no person shall be admitted who is above *fifty* years of age.

5. That every Preacher under thirty-one years of age, shall pay on his admission, *one guinea*; above thirty-one and under thirty-six, *one guinea and a half*; above thirty-six and under forty-one, *two guineas*; above forty-one and under forty-five, *four guineas*.-----N. B. Those who are above forty-five and under fifty, who may be admitted in the course of the present year, (beyond which the admission of any above forty-five years of age does not extend) shall pay on admission *five guineas*.

6. That every Preacher shall subscribe annually *one guinea*; the money to be paid at the time of Conference.

7. That every Member of this Society who is made a Supernumerary, or is Superannuated by the Conference, shall receive from this Institution the sum of *Twelve Guineas* per ann. the payments to be made every six months, and to commence from the time in which the said Member was superannuated or made a Supernumerary.

8. That the Widow of said Member, under the Regulations hereafter mentioned, shall receive the aforesaid sum of *Twelve Guineas*, to be paid as above specified, as long as said Widow continues unmarried; but that her annuity on her marriage shall immediately cease: it being generally understood that the husband provides for his wife.

9. That every Annuitant shall continue to subscribe *one guinea* annually, to the support of this Fund, at the time above-mentioned.

10. That no Member of this Institution shall be considered as a Supernumerary or Superannuated Preacher, but he who is declared such by the
Methodist

Methodist Conference, on account of some Corporeal or Mental Infirmary.

11. That if a Member of this Society above fifty-five years of age marry a Woman under forty, she shall not at his decease be entitled to any support from this Fund.

12. That a Member expelled from the Methodist connexion by the Conference, or who shall of his own accord withdraw from being an Itinerant Preacher, or from continuing to be a Member of this Society, shall be considered as excluded to all intents and purposes, from receiving any benefit from this Institution; and that said Member shall forfeit all the Monies he has paid into its Funds.

13. That no Member shall be considered as *free* of this Fund, or be entitled to any relief from it on any of the Regulations above-mentioned, till he has regularly subscribed to it for *five* years.

14. That a Treasurer be appointed, who shall receive and put out as soon as possible to legal Interest, the Monies belonging to this Institution, giving proper security for such Monies to the Society; and that Thomas Roberts, of *Somerset-street*, in the city of *Bristol*, Esq. be appointed the Treasurer.

15. That two Stewards be chosen annually, who shall be empowered to draw such Monies out of the Treasurer's hands, as may, on the Rules and Regulations of this Fund, be claimed by any Member of this Society.

16. That if in the judgment of a majority of the Members of this Society, its Funds should be found to have increased so as to admit of an increase of the Annuities, such addition shall be made to the Annuities, as in the judgment of the majority of the Members, the Funds shall be deemed capable of affording.

17. That if the *Expenditure* should at any time exceed the *Income*, a majority of the Members, at one of the annual Conferences of the People called Methodists, shall fix on a plan which shall cause the *Income* at least to equal the *Expenditure*, by *increasing* the annual Subscriptions, or by *lessening* the Annuities, or by *both*,—or, by any other method which the wisdom of the Members may devise, so as still to preserve the Institution according to its original Spirit and Design.

18. Provided, that if this Society should be so diminished as not to be able to support *two* Annuity-tants, then the Society shall be dissolved, and the remaining Monies equally divided among the surviving Members.

19. That every thing relative to the management of this Society, shall be done by a majority of the Members then present.

20. That after the present Conference, every new Member shall be chosen by *Ballot*.

21. That any Member neglecting to send his annual Subscription at the time above-mentioned, shall be fined, for the first year *Two Shillings and Sixpence*, for the second year, *Half-a-Guinea*; the fines to be thrown into the common stock: but if he neglect to send in his Subscription for *three* years, he shall be excluded, and forfeit all the Monies he has paid into this Fund; unless such person may have been employed by the Conference in any of the foreign Missions; the case of such a Member to be determined by a majority of the Members then present.

22. If any Member of this Society become a Supernumerary, or be Superannuated (according to the provisions already made) before he has sub-
scribed

scribed for *five* years regularly, he shall not be entitled to any benefit from this Fund, till he has subscribed to it for the *five* years already specified.

23. If any Member die before he be *free* of this Fund, his Widow shall not be entitled to any benefit from it.

24. If a man who is Superannuated or a Supernumerary, and who is a claimant on this Fund, become again an effective man, he shall cease to be an annuitant: but if he become again a Supernumerary, or be Superannuated, he shall have the same claim as heretofore, on the provisions and regulations already mentioned.

25. That the committee for managing the concerns of this Society be the Eleven persons following: Joseph Bradford, of Kingswood, in the county of Gloucester; James Rogers, of Stroud, in the same county; William Horner, of Bradford, Wilts; Thomas Rutherford, of Liverpool, Lancashire; Henry Moore, of the city of Bath, Somersetshire; Adam Clarke, of the city of Bristol; Walter Griffith, of the same; William Jenkins, of the same; John Gaultier, of Oldham, Lancashire; Owen Davis, of Penzance, Cornwall; and Samuel Taylor, of Shrewsbury, Salop: all Itinerant Preachers, late in connexion with the Rev. John Wesley.

26. That all difficulties and disputes relative to the business of this Society, shall be referred to a committee of Eleven Persons chosen by ballot from the Members then present; and the judgment of the majority shall be finally decisive, provided the said judgment be not contrary to any thing in the existing Rules of this Society.

27. That these Rules shall be registered according to,

to the provisions made by an Act of Parliament for the legalization and support of charitable Institutions.

Signed in behalf of the Society,

HENRY MOORE, Chairman.

ADAM CLARKE, Secretary.

BRISTOL, *Aug. 9, 1798.*

City of Bristol, }
and County of } To wit.
the same City. }

At the Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, held in and for the City of Bristol, and County of the same City, in the Guildhall of the said City, on Monday the Fifteenth day of July, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine, before Robert Claxton, Esq. Mayor of the said City; and Edward Brice, and John Harris, Esqrs. Aldermen of the same City, Justices assigned, and so forth.

At this Court the foregoing Rules, Orders, and Regulations were exhibited to the said Justices assembled at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace held as above-mentioned, who, after due examination thereof, allowed and confirmed the same.

Signed, at the above Sessions, by

WORRALL,

Town-Clerk, and Clerk of the Peace.

